

DMOC Key Messages – February 22, 2022

Opening

- Good afternoon.
- Most will have heard the IRG update, but if there is a desire I can provide an update on operations in Ottawa and the surrounding area.

Ottawa

- Police attended the Rideau Centre yesterday around noon for a call for service involving an armed individual, but it was determined to be a local shoplifter.
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- The most recent changes to the Secured Area announced on social media were methodically implemented over the course of yesterday afternoon. The Secured Area, which is restricted to those who live, work or have a lawful reason to be there, has been reduced to include the following: Bronson to the Rideau Canal; Laurier to Parliament Hill.
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- The Exclusion Zone, which is restricted to authorized personnel with valid work ID only, remains the same: Bay to Elgin (including the National War Memorial); The north side of Sparks (to allow pedestrian traffic along Sparks) to Parliament Hill. Sparks is now accessible to pedestrians via a gated access at all intersections, except Elgin.
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- There continues to be around the clock monitoring of social media and intelligence feeds across the country. There are still some individuals promoting new convoys and events, but this has significantly reduced, with no credible indications of returning back to Ottawa.

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[APG]

- Since yesterday, the operational posture and restricted zones have been reduced in Ottawa. Additional POU teams were reduced and a significant reduction in the night patrols is also reduced.
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- This coming Saturday, the decision will be made as to whether the begin demobilization, based on current intelligence regarding potential protests.
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- At the outskirts of Ottawa, in Arnprior, Vankleek Hill and Robertson Line, there are still remaining convoy vehicles, however police have visited the locations, and PLT units have spoken with the subjects, who have indicated no intent to return to Ottawa..
- The protestors in Vankleek Hill have moved to a local farm. As of yesterday afternoon, there were about 60 vehicles, 20 tractor trailers, and 4-5 trailers at this new site.
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- There are 15 personal vehicles and two tractor trailers on the outskirts of Arnprior.
- Policing partners continue to monitor these sites closely, and there's a plan in place to deal with any attempts to return to Ottawa.
- If the *Emergencies Act* is lifted, we'll rely on our existing authorities, just like we have done in similar situations across the country.
- We'll continue to maintain an increased police presence downtown to ensure that protestors don't return or if they do, they do not entrench as they did three weeks ago.
- In fact, we have a strong stabilization plan in place, and the OPP and RCMP will remain engaged for at least the coming week.

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- **If pressed:** The OPS was ill prepared and hesitant to take action when the protest began. This is no longer the case.
- We are now tracking **196 arrests**.
- We're expecting to see George Billings in court for a bail hearing today. As you have all heard, Tamara Lich was denied bail this morning – she's due back in court next Wednesday.
- The media is reporting that someone has pledged \$50,000 to ensure Pat King doesn't violate his bail conditions. His hearing is ongoing.
- I can also report that a total of **115** vehicles have been towed.
- With respect to the emergency economic measures, we contacted some of the individuals that had their accounts frozen, which resulted in most promising not to return to Ottawa to participate in the protests. Protestors responded with things like: "I won't be coming back to Ottawa if you're going to freeze my accounts!"
- I'm happy to say that the account freeze initiative was a successful disruption. Not only that, but it also showed the positive effects that a closer working relationship between financial institutions and the police can have.
- Just yesterday we provided information to financial institutions to allow them to unfreeze the accounts of individuals we've found have ceased their protest activities.
- Any further action lies with the financial institutions themselves. We've heard that some accounts are being unfrozen.
- I know there's been some concern about small donors being targeted, and the financial institutions have assured us that this did not occur.

Engagement with Psychologist

[APG]

- As I have mentioned, I think it is important to get the perspective of the psychologist who worked with the OPS/OPP/RCMP to develop the operational plan to help inform the approach around the revocation of the EA.
- The RCMP and its policing partners had engaged the services of world renowned Crown Dynamic Expert and Psychologist Dr. Tamara Herold to assist in developing the planning for the actions to remove the illegal protests in downtown Ottawa.
- Given that her expertise was very well utilized during the law enforcement planning, we have engaged her again to obtain her professional opinion regarding the lifting of the EA.
- Dr Herold was contacted earlier today, and has not had a chance to respond, but we have so far asked her questions such as how those involved in the protests, blockades, occupation, and those who contemplated becoming involved, might react to a lifting of the EA. We have also asked for her input regarding the timing of the lifting, and whether there may be any proactive communications strategies that could help mitigate any negative reactions or repeated infractions.
- My team is making every effort to get her insight on the questions that were raised. I hope to have more to report soon.

Communications Approach

- We know there's desire for strong communications from law enforcement to the public. We'll keep working with our partners to make sure this is the case.
- We're developing messaging to speak to the possible revocation of the *Emergencies Act* from our perspective that will outline how we'll continue working with our partners.

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- Our messaging will align with OPS's so the public can continue to be assured of our continuing efforts, even after the *Emergencies Act* is revoked.
- Of course we will work with Government partners to help inform and support the broader GOC approach.

Operations across Canada

- I have nothing of significance to report across Canada today.

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Emergencies Act

- I am confident that the OPS/OPP/RCMP can effectively manage the situation in Ottawa and surrounding areas without the EA and related measures.
- As we've discussed, the RCMP and other policing partners were able to manage and resolve protests without using the *Emergencies Act* including in Emerson, Coutts, Windsor, Toronto and Quebec City.
- If lifted in the coming hours, we still have the injunction in Ottawa and Provincial orders are in place until February 26th.
- As I mentioned earlier, there's also a strong stabilization plan in place, with the RCMP and OPP maintaining their presence for at least the coming week.

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